## **PCT**

## WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



	Interna	itional Bureau
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISH	ED U	INDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)
(51) International Patent Classification 6:		(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/57659
A61K 39/39	A1	(43) International Publication Date: 23 December 1998 (23.12.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP(22) International Filing Date: 9 June 1998 (6		CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL,
(30) Priority Data: 9712347.5 14 June 1997 (14.06.97)		Published  With international search report.  Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): S LINE BEECHAM BIOLOGICALS S.A. [BE/BE] 1'Institut 89, B-1330 Rixensart (BE).		
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BOON, Thierry Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Avenue H 74 UCL 7459, B-1200 Brussels (BE). SILLA [IT/BE]; Ludwig Institute for Cancer Resear enue Hippocrate 74 UCL 7459, B-1200 Brusse UYTTENHOVE, Catherine [BE/BE]; Ludwig for Cancer Research, Avenue Hippocrate 74 UC B-1200 Brussels (BE).	lippocra A, Silv rch, A els (BI Institu	tite v- 3).
(74) Agent: DALTON, Marcus, Jonathan, William; Sr Beecham, Corporate Intellectual Property, Two N zons Court, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EP (GB)	lew Ho	
(54) Title: ADJUVANT COMPOSITIONS FOR VACCI	NES	
(57) Abstract		
The present invention provides improved adjuvant c a range of prophylatic and therapeutic vaccines, including	omposi cancer	tions comprising QS21/3DMPL and Interleukin 12. These find utility in vaccines.

### FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
ΑT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
ΑŪ	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece		Republic of Macedonia	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
ВЈ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA.	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	· zw	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon		Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

#### ADJUVANT COMPOSITIONS FOR VACCINES

The present invention relates to improved adjuvant compositions, for the stimulation of an immune response suitable for immunotherapy applications. In particular the present invention relates to compositions comprising mixture of a saponin adjuvant with monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof and interleukin 12. In particular, the invention relates to compositions comprising 3 de-o-acylated monosphoryl lipid A, QS21, and IL12. Such compositions are particularly useful in the immunotherapy of tumours.

5

10

15

20

25

30

Cancer is a disease developing from a single cell due to genetic changes.

Clinical detection of these tumours occurs mostly in a relatively late stage of disease, when the primary tumour can be removed by surgery, and the existence of micro metastases settled in different organs has often already occurred.

Chemotherapy does often not completely eliminate these cells, which then remain as a source for recurrent disease.

Immune cells are able to control all different tissues (with the exception of the brain) and, due to their memory function, can also eliminate hidden cells reentering the circulation (metastasis). Therefore, an activated immune response to tumour cells is expected to be of clinical benefit. Despite their undifferentiated growth, tumour cells are in many aspects indistinguishable from normal cells, and over-expression of certain proteins or expression of mutated proteins is in most cases not sufficient to activate the immune response. This situation results in failure of immune surveillance. Thus, strategies for therapy of disseminated tumours need to specifically activate the immune response to tumour cells and to trigger migratory activity of cytotoxic T cells for example leading to elimination of most and possibly every single tumour cell. Genetic mutation in tumour cells is intense, and strong immune responses are therefore required to prevent further genetic changes of the tumour cells (escape variants) under the pressure of the immune system.

It is now well established that cellular antigens which are not cell surface proteins *per se* can be the targets of immune rejection through their recognition by immune regulatory and cytotoxic T cells. New potential target antigens for

immune-mediated tumour rejection are being identified, based on their recognition by immune T cells, rather than by antibodies. Such antigens may or may not induce antibody formation. It is now recognized that the expression of tumour antigens by a cell is in itself not sufficient for *induction* of an immune response to these antigens. Initiation of a tumour rejection response requires a series of immune amplification phenomena dependent on the intervention of antigen presenting cells, which are responsible for delivery of a series of activation signals which ultimately leads to the rejection of the tumour.

5

10

15

20

25

Tumour rejection antigens which are presented on tumour cells and which are recognised by cytotoxic T cells can lead to lysis of the cell. To achieve this, in a clinical setting a vaccine composition comprising a tumour rejection antigen needs to be presented in a suitable adjuvant system to enable a suitable immune response to be mounted. However, activation of the immune systems requires activation signals which are initiated by antigen presenting cells and are not activated by the tumour cells themselves.

Vaccination with isolated tumour rejection antigens has been envisaged either by recombinant proteins, by the use of live recombinant vectors or by DNA vectors. Preferably subunit antigens will be used. However, to ensure these are effective, powerful adjuvant systems are required.

Accordingly, the present invention provides an adjuvant composition comprising a combination of a saponin adjuvant in combination with monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof together with the cytokine Interleukin 12.

Immunologically active saponin fractions having adjuvant activity derived from the bark of the South American tree Quillaja Saponaria Molina are known in the art. For example QS21, also known as QA21, is an Hplc purified fraction from the Quillaja Saponaria Molina tree and it's method of its production is disclosed (as QA21) in US patent No. 5,057,540. Quillaja saponin has also been disclosed as an adjuvant by Scott et al, Int. Archs. Allergy Appl. Immun., 1985, 77, 409.

Monosphoryl lipid A and derivatives thereof are known in the art. A preferred derivative is 3 de-o-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A, and is known from British Patent No. 2220211.

Interleukin 12 (IL-12) is known. For a review see Trinchieri G. Interleukin12 - A proinflammatory cytokine with immunoregulatory functions that bridge
innate resistance and antigen-specific adaptive immunity. Immunology 13:
251.276, 1995. It is a heterodimeric cytokine produced mostly by phagocytic cells
in response to bacteria, bacterial products, and intracellular parasites, and to some
degree by B lymphocytes. In particular, IL-12 is produced by antigen presenting
cells and instrumental in induction of TH-1 cell responses. IL-12 induces IFNgamma from NK and T cells, acts as a growth factor for activated NK and T cells,
enhances the cytotoxic activity of NK cells, and induces cytotoxic T lymphocyte
generation.

5

10

15

20

25

30

IL-12 and IL-12-induced IFN-gamma favor Th1 cell differentiation by priming CD4 (+) T cells for high IFN-gamma production. However, we surprisingly found that other cytokines, such as IFN-γ, IL-2, IL-6, IL-7, GM-CSF or MCP were unable to enhance the effect of the QS21/MPL adjuvant.

Preferably the compositions of the invention contain the immunologically active saponin fraction in substantially pure form. Preferably the compositions of the invention contain QS21 in substantially pure form, that is to say, the QS21 is at least 90% pure, preferably at least 95% pure and most preferably at least 98% pure. Other immunologically active saponin fractions useful in compositions of the invention include QA17/QS17.

In a preferred embodiment the composition also comprises a sterol such as cholesterol wherein the sterol is present in an excess ratio to that of the saponin. These show decreased reactogenicity when compared to compositions in which the cholesterol is absent, while the adjuvant effect is maintained. In addition it is known that QS21 degrades under basic conditions where the pH is about 7 or greater. Thus a further advantage is that the stability of QS21 to basemediated hydrolysis is enhanced in formulations containing cholesterol.

Although the adjuvant compositions can be utilised for the treatment or prophylaxis of a range of disease, they find particular utility in the field of cancer immunotherapy.

In particular, the adjuvant formulation finds utility particularly with tumour 5 rejection antigens such as those for prostrate, breast, colorectal, pancreatic, renal or melanoma cancers. Exemplary antigens include MAGE 1 and MAGE 3 or other MAGE antigens for the treatment of melanoma, BAGE or GAGE LAGE (NY-eso-1) PRAME or Her-2/neu; Robbins and Kawakami (1996), Current Opinions in Immunology 8, pps 628-636; Van den Eynde et al., International Journal of 10 Clinical & Laboratory Research (submitted 1997); Correale et al. (1997), Journal of the National Cancer Institute 89, p293. Indeed these antigens are expressed in a wide range of tumour types such as melanoma, lung carcinoma, sarcoma and bladder carcinoma. Other classes of antigens useful in the context of the present invention include tissue specific antigens such as Prostate Specific antigen (PSA); 15 Prostate Specific Membrane antigen (PMSA), Melan A/Mart 1, gp100, tyrosinase TRP1 or TRP2.

Accordingly in one aspect of the present invention there is provided a vaccine comprising an adjuvant composition according to the invention and a tumour rejection antigen, or tissue specific antigen.

Other antigens or antigenic compositions include for example,
polysaccharide antigens, protein antigens or DNA encoding antigens or antigenic
compositions derived from HIV-1, (such as gp120 or gp160), any of Feline
Immunodeficiency virus, human or animal herpes viruses, such as gD or derivatives
thereof or Immediate Early protein such as ICP27 from HSV1 of HSV2,
cytomegalovirus (especially human) (such as gB or derivatives thereof), Varicella
Zoster Virus (such as gpI, II or III), or from a hepatitis virus such as hepatitis B
virus for example Hepatitis B Surface antigen or a derivative thereof, hepatitis A
virus, hepatitis C virus and hepatitis E virus, of from other viral pathogens, such as
Respiratory Syncytial virus (for example RSV F and G proteins or immunogenic
fragments thereof disclosed in US Patent 5,149,650 or chimeric polypeptides
containing immunogenic fragments from HSRV proteins F and G, eg GF

glycoprotein disclosed in US Patent 5,194,595), antigens derived from meningitis strains such as meningitis A, B and C, Streptococcus Pneumonia, human papilloma virus, in particular from strains HPV6, 11, 16 and 18, Influenza virus, Haemophilus Influenza B (Hib), Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), or derived from bacterial pathogens such as Salmonella, Neisseria, Borrelia (for example OspA or OspB or derivatives thereof), or Chlamydia, or Bordetella for example P.69, PT and FHA, or derived from parasites such as plasmodium or toxoplasma.

5

10

15

20

25

30

The P815 tumour is a mastocytoma, induced in a D BA/2 mouse with methylcholanthrene and cultured as both an in vitro tumour and cell line. This represents an excellent model system for the human.

The model system described in this application is a murine system whereby a murine tumour antigen, P1A, expressed in the mouse mastocytoma P815, is being tested for its ability to stimulate CTL in the mouse with and without adjuvant. The significance of this system is that P1A is a true tumour rejection antigen in that its gene is the same in both normal and tumour cells but the gene is silent in normal cells and only expressed in tumour cells. This is in comparison to other P815 antigens that were previously found and which are created by mutation of normal alleles. These are called tum- variants or tum- antigens. Mutations in the tum-antigens create new antigenic peptides which can then be recognised by CTL.

Tum- antigens are likely to be tumour-specific whereas true tumour antigens will be shared between different tumours and patients and therefore the latter will be better candidates for vaccine formulations. Human tumour rejection antigens analogous to P1A include the MAGE, BAGE, GAGE etc. families as described earlier. These genes are found in both normal and tumour tissues but the corresponding proteins are expressed only in tumours and in normal testis. As the testis is an immune privileged site it is unlikely to be affected by any vaccine.

P1A is a true murine TRAs. Therefore, one can test a large number of adjuvants with a variety of different assays in mice giving a good indication as to which formulations should be used with human tumour rejection antigens in human clinical trials.

Preferred compositions of the invention are those forming a liposome structure. Compositions where the sterol/immunologically active saponin fraction forms an ISCOM structure also form an aspect of the invention.

The ratio of QS21: sterol will typically be in the order of 1:100 to 1:1 weight to weight. Preferably excess sterol is present, the ratio of QS21: sterol being at least 1:2 w/w. Typically for human administration QS21 and sterol will be present in a vaccine in the range of about 1 ng to about  $100\mu g$ , preferably about  $10\mu g$  to about  $50\mu g$  per dose.

5

10

15

20

25

30

The liposomes preferably contain a neutral lipid, for example phosphatidylcholine, which is preferably non-crystalline at room temperature, for example eggyolk phosphatidylcholine, dioleoyl phosphatidylcholine or dilauryl phosphatidylcholine. The liposomes may also contain a charged lipid which increases the stability of the lipsome-QS21 structure for liposomes composed of saturated lipids. In these cases the amount of charged lipid is preferably 1-20% w/w, most preferably 5-10%. The ratio of sterol to phospholipid is 1-50% (mol/mol), most preferably 20-25%.

The compositions of the invention also contain a 3 deacylated monophosphoryl lipid A derivative (3-de-0-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A, also known as 3D-MPL) and is manufactured by Ribi Immunochem, Montana. A preferred form is disclosed in International Patent Application 92/116556.

Suitable compositions of the invention are those wherein liposomes are initially prepared without 3D-MPL, and 3D-MPL is then added, preferably as 100nm particles. The 3D-MPL is therefore not contained within the vesicle membrane (known as 3D-MPL out). Compositions where the 3D-MPL is contained within the vesicle membrane (known as 3D-MPL in) also form an aspect of the invention. The antigen can be contained within the vesicle membrane or contained outside the vesicle membrane or encapsulated. Preferably soluble antigens are outside and hydrophobic or lipidated antigens are either contained inside or outside the membrane. The 3D-MPL will be present in the range of about 1Ug to 100Ug and preferably about 10 to 50 µg per dose of human vaccine.

Often the vaccines of the invention will not require any specific carrier and formulated in an aqueous or other pharmaceutically acceptable buffer. In some cases it may be advantageous that the vaccines of the present invention will further contain alum.

### 5 Example 1:

10

15

20

a) - Immunisation of DBA/2 mice with peptide + 3 D-MPL + QS21 + Lipids ± IL12

Human tumours express antigens that can be recognized by autologous CTL. These antigens constitute useful targets for cancer immunotherapy. We decided to evaluate in the P815 murine mastocytoma model the efficacy of an immunization method that could be applied to human patients. Syngeneic DBA/2 mice were injected with antigenic peptides mixed with adjuvant and murine IL12.

An adjuvant composition comprising QS21, lipids (DQ) and 3 de-o-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A (3D-MPL) was prepared.

Briefly a mixture of lipid (such as phosphatidylcholine either from egg-yolk or synthetic) and cholesterol in organic solvent, is dried down under vacuum (or alternatively under a stream of inert gas). An aqueous solution (such as phosphate buffered saline) is then added, and the vessel agitated until all the lipid is in suspension. This suspension is then microfluidised until the liposome size is reduced to 100 nm, and then sterile filtered through a 0.2 Um filter. Extrusion or sonication could replace this step.

The cholesterol phosphatidylcholine ratio is 1:4 (w/w), and the aqueous solution is added to give a final cholesterol concentration of 5 to 50 ng/ml. The liposomes have a defined size of 100 nm and are referred to as SUV (for small unilamellar vesicles). If this solution is repeatedly frozen and thawed the vesicles fuse to form large multilamellar structures (MLV) of size ranging from 500nm to 15  $\mu$ m.

QS21 in aqueous solution is added to the liposomes. This mixture is then added to  $50 \mu g$  of P198 peptide (KYQAVTTTL) and 3D-MPL.

25

Fig.1 Immunisation of DBA/2 mice with peptide p198  $\pm$  DQS21/3D-MPL  $\pm$  IL12

DBA/2 mice were injected s.c. in the two footpads with 50µg of P198 5 peptide (KYQAVTTTL), corresponding to the antigen expressed by the P198 TUM - clone (Sibille et al., J. Exp. Med., 1990: 172, 35-45), mixed with the DOS21/3D-MPL adjuvant (adjuvant) 100µl final. For a second group of animals we added to the peptide and adjuvant solution 50ng (500U) murine IL12. This murine IL12 was purified from the supernatant of transfected P1HTR cells as described in Gajewski 10 et al. (J. Immunol. 1995, 154: 5637-5648). On d1 and 2, we injected locally an additional dose of IL12 100ng (1000U) or PBS. On day 16, the mice were bled and stimulation of blood lymphocytes was performed by mixing 3x10<sup>5</sup> Ficoll purified lymphocytes with 10<sup>5</sup> irradiated stimulating cells (100 Gy) and 2x10<sup>6</sup> irradiated normal syngeneic spleen cells (30 Gy) as feeder cells. The stimulating cells were 15 P1983 cells, an azaguanine-resistant variant derived from the P198 TUM-clone. The cells were incubated in 48-well plates in a final volume of 0,8ml MLTC medium described in Warnier et al. (Int. J. Cancer, 1996, 67, 303-310). Seven days later, CTL activity was measured in a standard chromium-release assay using 1,000 5 Cr-labelled targets. Two targets were used: the P1983 cells or the P511 20 cells (azaguanine-resistant variant derived from the P815 TUM+ cells) not expressing the P198 antigen. To eliminate non-specific lysis, 10<sup>5</sup> cold P511 cells were added as competitors. On day 26, the mice received a second injection of peptide, adjuvant and IL12 or PBS, followed by two local injections of 100ng (1000U) IL12 or PBS. A second bleeding of the mice was performed on day 41 to estimate CTL activity after two injections. Data are expressed in lytic units 25 (LU)/10<sup>6</sup> lymphocytes as described in Brichard et al. (Eur. J. Immunol., 1995, 25: 664-671). Specific lytic units were calculated by subtracting the values obtained with the negative targets (usually less than 0.3 LU) from those obtained with the positive target. Mice were scored as ± when the LU detected were comprised 30 between 0,1 and 1; + when LU were comprised between 1 and 10; and ++ above 10 LU.

Fig. 2 CTL activity in mice injected with peptide P198  $\pm$  DQS21/3D-MPL  $\pm$  IL12

After the first injection, no CTL activity was detected in the mice injected with the peptide and the adjuvant. When IL12 was added significant CTL activity was detected in all the animals. For the majority of the mice (13/15) the response was moderate since we measured less than 1 LU/10<sup>6</sup> PBL. After the second immunization, two mice out of 15, injected with the peptide and adjuvant alone were positive. In the group injected with IL12, CTL activity had increased and half of the mice showed a very high response. The addition of IL12 to the peptide and the adjuvant increased strongly the number of responding mice and the level of CTL activity observed after only a few injections.

Fig. 3 Immunisation of DBA/2 mice with peptide P198  $\pm$  DQS21/3D-MPL  $\pm$  IL12 in footpads or flanks.

20

25

In this second experiment, we applied the immunisation protocol described before (Fig.1) with some modifications. To determine the relative contribution of IL12 and adjuvant in CTL induction, we injected one group of mice in the footpads with P198 peptide and IL12 without adjuvant. To test a s.c. injection site that is applicable to humans, we also injected 2 groups of mice s.c. in the flank instead of the footpads; the first one receiving the peptide, the adjuvant and the IL12 and the second receiving only the peptide and the adjuvant. Four injections were performed and mice were bled after the first, the second and the fourth injection for CTL activity determinations.

Fig. 4 CTL activity in mice injected with peptide P198  $\pm$  DQS21/3D-MPL  $\pm$  IL12 in the footpads or the flanks.

After the first immunisation, we observed that 4 mice out of 10 injected with peptide, the adjuvant and IL12 in the footpads showed a significant CTL activity. In the group injected without adjuvant 3 mice also showed CTL activity but the response was lower. Nearly no response was obtained after injection into the flanks since only 2 mice receiving the peptide, the adjuvant and IL12 showed a weak CTL activity.

5

25

After the second immunisation, all the mice receiving the peptide, the adjuvant and IL12 combination in the footpads exhibited high CTL activity. All the mice injected with the peptide and the IL12 without adjuvant also showed a specific CTL activity, but much weaker. The same situation is observed for the mice injected in the flank with the peptide, the adjuvant and the IL12 while in the absence of IL12 no response is observed after injection in the flank.

After the fourth injection, all the mice that received peptide, adjuvant and IL12 in the footpads had a CTL activity located in the high values. We also observed an increase in the average of CTL activity for the mice injected without adjuvant or receiving the peptide, the adjuvant and the IL12 in the flank. Even after 4 injections we did not observe any response in the mice injected in the flank without IL12.

We confirm in this experiment the potent effect of IL12 on the generation of CTL activity after immunisation with the P198 peptide. This effect is enhanced by the combination with the DQS21/3D-MPL adjuvant since the response is obtained earlier in all the mice and since the average level of response is higher. The effect of IL12 is also required to obtain CTL activity when the antigen is injected in the flank instead of in the footpads.

### Fig. 5 IL12 dose curve

Mice were injected with the P198 peptide mixed with the DQS21/3D-MPL adjuvant. Different doses of murine IL12 3ng (30U), 10ng (100U), 30ng (300U), 100ng (1000U) were mixed with the peptide and the adjuvant and also repeated locally the two following days. The control group received the peptide and the adjuvant but no IL12. Mice were bled after each of the two immunisations to monitor the appearance and level of CTL activity.

# Fig. 6 CTL activity in mice receiving peptide P198 $\pm$ DQS21/3D-MPL $\pm$ various doses of IL12

In the two preceding experiments we used a high dose of IL12 (1 µg/mouse/day). Even if the IL12 was injected locally we saw a systemic toxicity with symptoms similar to those observed in a LPS shock. We decided to try decreasing doses of IL12. The effect of IL12 was nearly fully maintained when the dose/mouse/day was decreased to 10ng (100U). It disappeared when the mice were injected with only 30 ng IL12. At that dose, the systemic toxicity of IL12 was largely reduced but not totally absent.

20

25

30

15

## Fig. 7 Immunisation of DBA/2 mice with peptide P1A $\pm$ DQS21/3D-MPL $\pm$ IL12

After several experiments with the peptide P198 showing that high CTL activity were induced by injections of a combination of peptide, adjuvant and IL12, we decided to apply this protocol to the P1A peptide. This peptide presented by the Ld molecule constitutes the P815A antigen that is a major target for the immune rejection *in vivo* (Uyttenhove et al. J. Exp. Med., 1983, 157: 1040-1052). Gene P1A, which code for the P815A antigen is expressed in several mastocytoma tumour lines (Van den Eynde et al. J. Exp. Med., 1991, 173: 1373-1384). Like the *MAGE*, *BAGE* and *GAGE* genes, it is not expressed in adult normal tissues, with

the exception of spermatogonia in the testis (Van den Eynde et al, 1991 and Uyttenhove et al, Int. J. Cancer, 1997, 70: 349-356). Accordingly, the P815A antigen represents a good mouse model for the human MAGE, BAGE and GAGE antigens.

5 Mice were injected s.c. in the two footpads with 50 µg of P1A peptide (LPYLGWLVF described in Lethé et al. Eur. J. Immunol. 1992, 22: 2283-2288) mixed with the adjuvant DQS21/3D-MPL. For one group, 100ng (1000U) of IL-12 was added to the peptide and the adjuvant. These mice received additional doses of 100ng (1000U) IL-12 injected locally the two following days. This injection 10 scheme was repeated four times and the mice were bled after the second and the fourth injection. The lymphocytes were restimulated in vitro for 7 days and the CTL activity was measured in a conventional 51 Cr assay. We used L1210. P1A cells as stimulating cells. The syngeneic L1210 P1A transfectant cells expressing the antigen P815AB were generated as described in Uyttenhove et al. Int. J. Cancer 15 (1997) 70: 349-356. As target cells we used P511 cells expressing all the P815 antigens and P1-204 cells, an antigen-loss variant not expressing the P815 AB antigen described in Uyttenhove et al (J. Exp. Med., 157, 1040-1052, 1983). To avoid problems of non specific lysis, cold P1-204 were added as competitors.

# Fig. 8 CTL activity in mice injected with the P1A peptide $\pm$ DQS21/3D-MPL $\pm$ IL12

25

30

After two injections, 9 mice out of ten showed significant CTL activity specific for the P815A antigen when IL12 was added to the peptide and adjuvant. Half of those mice exhibited high CTL activity levels. In the group injected without IL12, a positive response was detected only in one mouse and this activity was rather low.

After the fourth injection, all the mice receiving IL12 were positive and the average of lytic units had increased. Without IL12 we detected a good CTL activity in four mice, one additional mouse showed a very low response at the limit of the significance threshold. In this system again, the addition of IL12 increased the

number of responding mice and diminished the number of injections needed to obtain high and specific CTL activity. In this experiment we injected a high dose of IL12 (100ng (1000U)/mouse/day). Like in the previous experiments using the P198 peptide we observed systemic toxic effects of the IL12.

5

10

### Conclusion:

The addition of IL12 to peptide and adjuvant combination is very effective at increasing the number of mice displaying high CTL responses after immunisation. In addition, CTL responses appear earlier in the presence of IL12.

- 13 -

### **Claims**

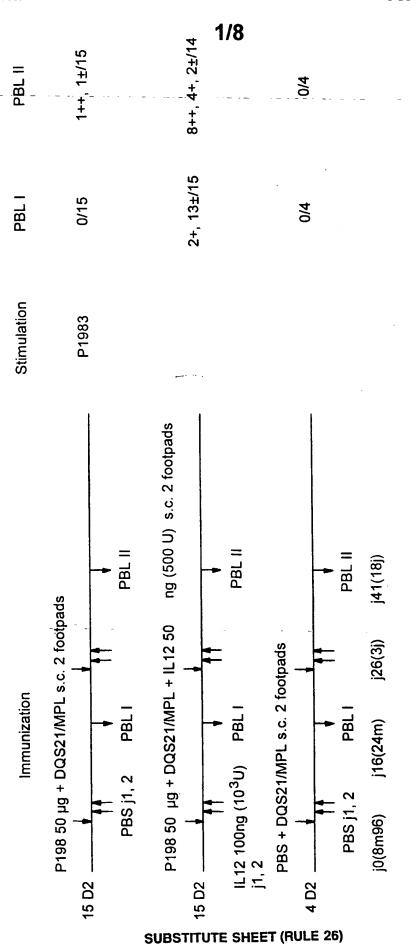
1. An adjuvant composition comprising a saponin adjuvant, monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof, and Interleukin 12.

2. An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the monophosphoryl lipid A is 3-O-deacylated monophosphoryl lipid A.

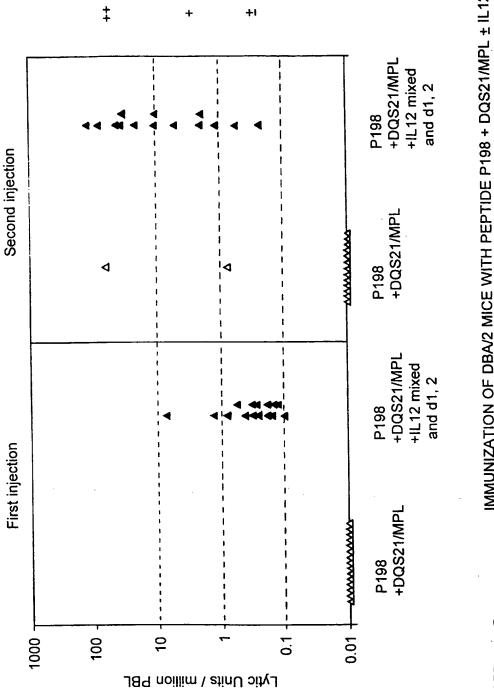
- 3. An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the saponin adjuvant is QS21.
  - 4. An adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 3 additionally comprising cholesterol.
- 15 5. An adjuvant composition as claimed herein for use in medicine.
  - 6. Use of a saponin adjuvant, monophosphoryl lipid A or a derivative thereof and Interleukin 12 in the manufacture of adjuvant for the treatment of prophylaxis of pathogenic infections or cancer.
  - 7. A method of producing an adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising admixing a saponin adjuvant, monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof and Interleukin 12.

20

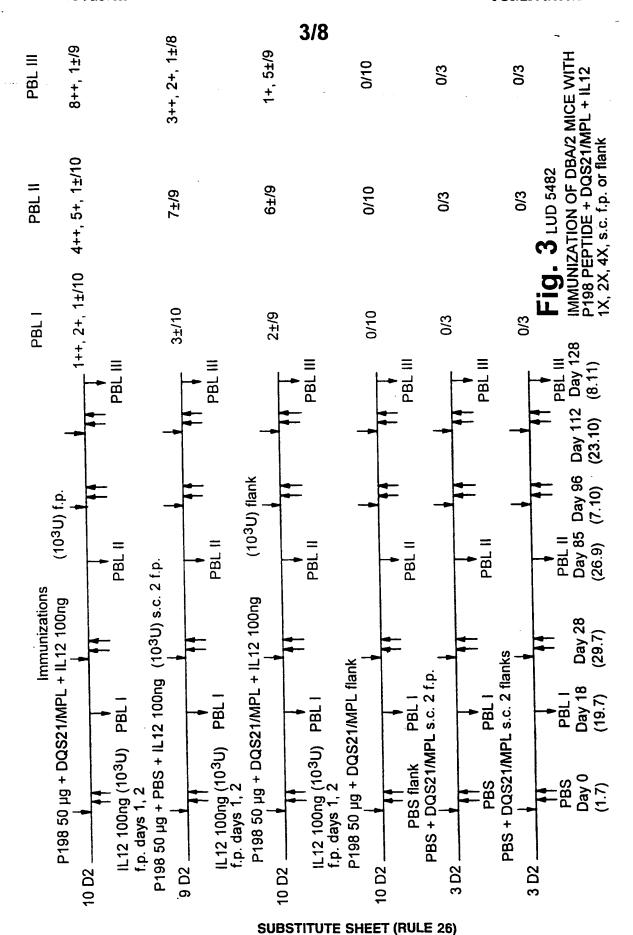
5

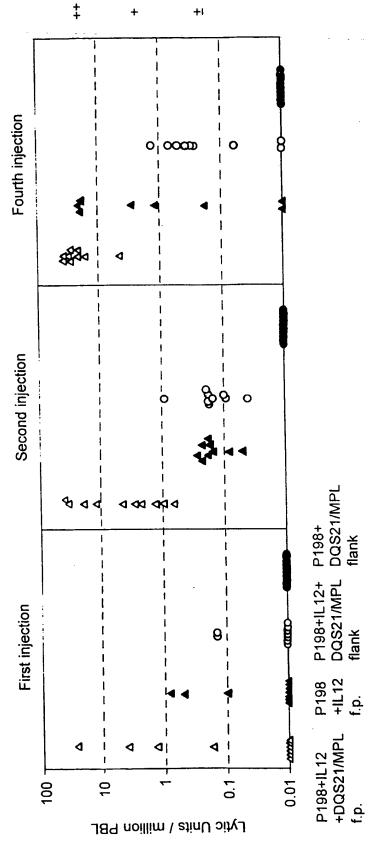


IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P198 + DQS21/MPL ± IL12 1 OR 2 INJECTIONS s.c.footpads Fig. 1 LUD 5482



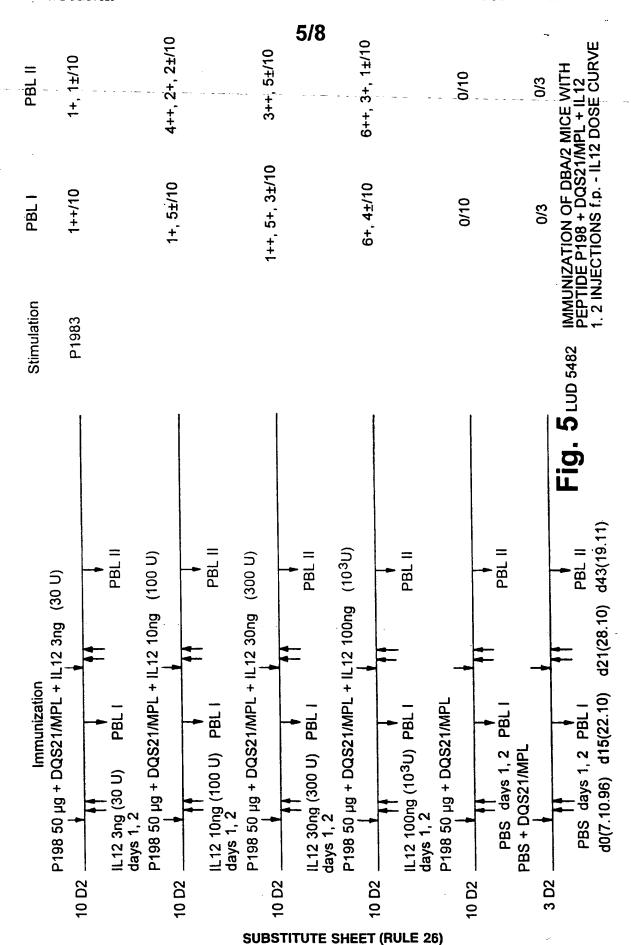
IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P198 + DQS21/MPL  $\pm$  IL12 1, 2 INJECTIONS f.p. Fig. 2 LUD 5482

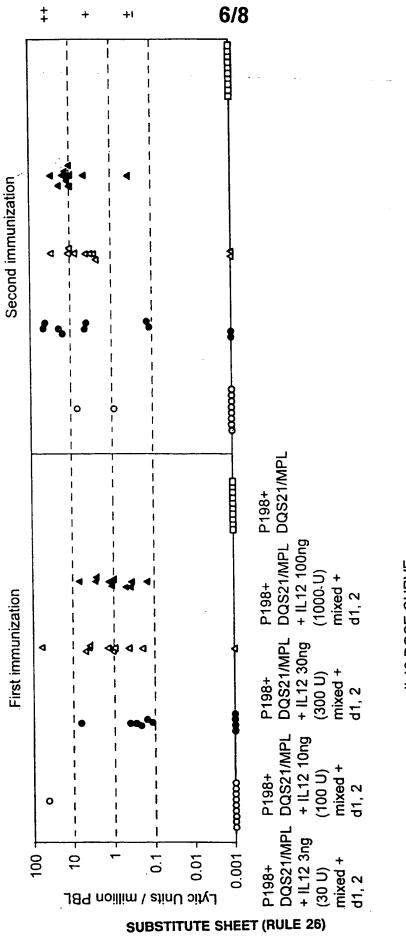




(1000 U) mixed with the peptide and the adjuvant IL12 injections: d0 100ng IL12 d1 and d2 100ng

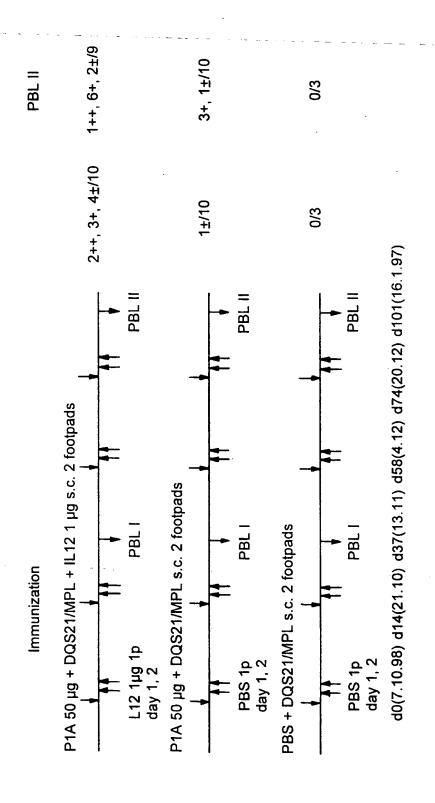
IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P198 ± DQS21/MPL ± IL12 1, 2, 4 INJECTIONS f.p. or flank Fig. 4 LUD 5482



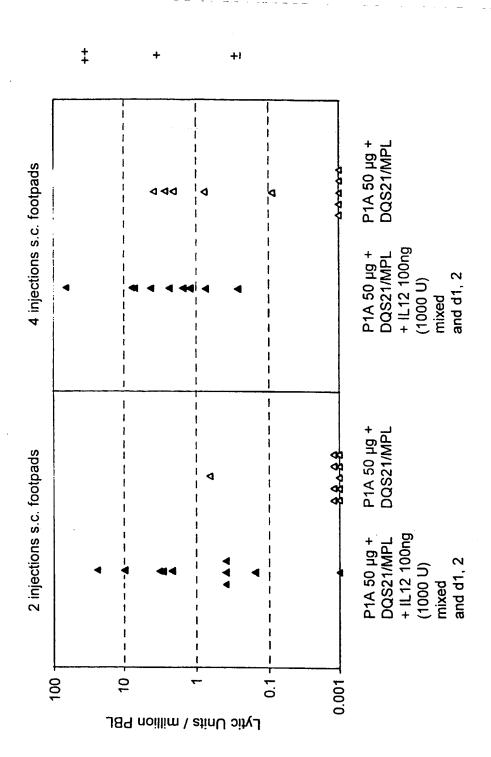


IL12 DOSE CURVE IMMUNIZATION WITH PEPTIDE P198 + DQS21/MPL + IL12 f.p. Fig. 6 LUD 5482

Fig.7 LUD 5482 IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P1A + DQS21/MPL ± 1L12



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)



IMMUNIZATION OF DBA/2 MICE WITH PEPTIDE P1A + DQS21/MPL ± IL12 Fig. 8 LUD 5482

Inte ional Application No PCT/EP 98/03671

	CATION OF SUBJECT MATTER A61K39/39		-				
			ļ				
According to	International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification	on and IPC					
B. FIELDS							
Minimum do	cumentation searched (classification system followed by classification $A61K$	symbols)					
Documentat	ion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that suc	ch documents are included in the fields sea	rched				
	•						
<b>5.</b>							
Electronic da	ata base consulted during the international search (name of data base	and, where practical, search terms used)					
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
Category 3	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relev	ant passages	Relevant to claim No.				
γ	WO 95 17209 A (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM		1-7				
•	BIOLOGICALS) 29 June 1995		• ,				
	see the whole document	,					
Υ	WO 94 00153 A (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM		1-7				
	BIOLOGICALS) 6 January 1994						
	see the whole document 						
Υ	WO 96 11019 A (VANDERBILT UNIVERS	ITY)	1-7				
	18 April 1996 see the whole document						
l Y	WO 96 10423 A (LUDWIG INSTITUTE F RESEARCH) 11 April 1996	OR CANCER	1-7				
	see the whole document						
		/					
1		,					
X Furt	ther documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed i	n annex.				
° Special ca	ategories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the inter					
	ent defining the general state of the art which is not dered to be of particular relevance	or priority date and not in conflict with cited to understand the principle or the invention					
"E" earlier	document but published on or after the international date	"X" document of particular relevance; the cannot be considered novel or cannot					
which	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention						
"O" docum	on or other special reason (as specified)  nent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	cannot be considered to involve an in document is combined with one or mo	ventive step when the ore other such docu-				
"P" docum	means leart published prior to the international filing date but than the priority date claimed	ments, such combination being obvior in the art. "&" document member of the same patent	·				
	actual completion of theinternational search	Date of mailing of the international sea					
	2 Octobor 1009	21 /10 /1000					
	l3 October 1998	21/10/1998					
Name and	mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2	Authorized officer					
	NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Moreau, J					
I	(	l '					

1

Into ional Application No
PCT/EP 98/03671

		PC1/EP 98/	
	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	P	elevant to claim No.
Υ	WO 97 01640 A (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM BIOLOGICALS) 16 January 1997 see the whole document		1-7

1

information on patent family members

PCT/EP 98/03671

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9517209	A	29-06-1995	AU	1316495 A	10-07-1995
			AU	687494 B	26-02-1998
	-		AU	1316695 A	10-07-1995
			AU	6803198 A	09-07-1998
			AU	6803298 A	09-07-1998
			CA	2179779 A	29 <b>-</b> 06-19 <b>95</b>
		•	CN	1138298 A	18-12-1996
			WO	9517210 A	29-06-1995
			EP	0735898 A	09-10-1996
			EP	0868918 A	07-10-1998
			JP	9506887 T	08-07-1997
			SG	49257 A	18-05-1998
			ZA	9410176 A	17-11-1995
WO 9400153	Α	06-01-1994	AP	408 A	27-09-1995
			AT	156710 T	15-08-1997
			AU	1785597 A	19-06-1997
			AU	661404 B	
			AU	4326393 A	24-01-1994
			AU	676166 B	
			AU	4326493 A	24-01-1994
			CA	2138996 A	06-01-1994
			CA	2138997 A	06-01-1994
			CN	1086142 A	04-05-1994
			CN	1092812 A	28-09-1994
			CZ	9403296 A	16-08-1995
			DE	69313134 D	18-09-1997
•			DE	69313134 T	26-02-1998
			DK	671948 T	01-09-1997
			WO	9400575 A	06-01-1994
			EP	0671948 A	20-09-1995
			EP	0649470 A	26-04-1995
			EP	0761231 A	
			ES	2108278 T	16-12-1997
			FI	946064 A	
			GR	3025184 1	
			HU	71208 A	
			ΙL	106109 A	
			JP	7508512	21-09-1995
			JP	7508648 1	28-09-1995

Information on patent family members

Int tional Application No PCT/EP 98/03671

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date		ratent family member(s)	Publication _ date
WO	9400153	Α	<u> </u>	MX	9303771 A	31-05-1994
				MX	9303773 A	31-05-1994
				NO	945003 A	23-12-1994
				NZ	253137 A	27-08-1996
				NZ	253138 A	26-10-1995
				PL	170980 B	28-02-1997
				SG	49909 A	15-06-1998
				SI	9300335 A	31-12-1993
				SK	159294 A	09-08-1995
				US	5750110 A	12-05-1998
WO	9611019	Α	18-04-1996	AU	3887695 A	02-05-1996
				EP	0784486 A	23-07-1997
				JP	10507175 T	14-07-1998
WO	9610423	 А	11-04-1996	AU	3735095 A	26-04-1996
				ZA	9508230 A	15-07-1996
WO	9701640	 А	16-01-1997	 AU	6304996 A	30-01-1997
			<del>-</del> •	CA	2222456 A	16-01-1997
				CZ	9704223 A	17-06-1998
				EP	0835318 A	15-04-1998
				NO	976060 A	17-02-1998
				PL	324906 A	22-06-1998